PATENT APPLICATION
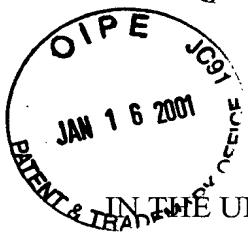
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Nobuaki HASHIMOTO   Group Art Unit: 2815

Application No.: 09/486,561   Examiner: L. Cruz

Filed: February 29, 2000   Docket No.:   105030

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD THEREOF, CIRCUIT BOARD AND
        ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2000, the Applicant hereby

provisionally elects Group I, claims 8-15, drawn to a semiconductor device. This election is

made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all groups is sufficiently related

that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would necessarily encompass

a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that

the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious

burden. MPEP §803 clearly states that "If the search and examination of an entire application

can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though

it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this

policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and

expense to the Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all of the claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:CCH/mdw

Date: January 16, 2001

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